

Table 14.5: Hearing Impairment Detected by Audiometry¹

Test Result	Total (N=973)	Age Group			Disability Level			Age-Adjusted Disability Level ²		
		65-74 (N=378)	75-84 (N=304)	85+ (N=291)	Moder- ate ³ (N=338)	ADL Difficulty		Moder- ate ³	ADL Difficulty	
						Receives No Help (N=459)	Receives Help (N=176)		Receives No Help	Receives Help
Impaired hearing (%) ⁴	38.5	21.2	45.1	71.9	33.4	40.5	43.5	33.2	36.7	36.3
Bilateral impairment (%) ⁵	32.7	16.6	37.8	66.9	27.5	35.7	35.6	27.3	32.0	28.5
Percent failing to hear 40-dB tone at signal frequency (Hz) ⁶										
In both ears										
500	18.1	8.9	19.9	40.8	13.4	20.2	22.3	13.5	17.9	18.6
1000	27.1	13.7	30.9	56.3	23.2	29.3	29.1	23.3	26.1	22.8
2000	22.0	9.1	24.9	52.4	16.7	23.7	28.2	16.5	20.9	21.9
4000	41.5	23.9	47.8	76.6	34.2	44.8	47.4	34.1	40.9	39.8
In one ear only										
500	14.4	12.3	13.9	22.1	17.7	12.2	13.8	17.6	11.9	12.2
1000	18.7	16.9	20.2	19.8	21.8	16.2	18.9	21.6	16.1	18.6
2000	16.9	13.5	19.1	20.9	17.4	16.2	17.8	17.5	15.6	16.2
4000	21.0	22.6	21.6	14.5	25.9	17.4	20.8	25.2	18.2	22.2

(Women's Health and Aging Study, physical assessment, 1992-1995)

¹ Descriptive statistics are based on weighted data.
² Adjusted using U.S. female population, 1992.
³ No ADL difficulty; disabled in two or more domains (see Chapter 1).
⁴ Participant was considered to be hearing impaired if she had (1) a 40-dB loss at the 1000- **or** 2000-Hz frequency in both ears or (2) a 40-dB loss at the 1000- **and** 2000-Hz frequencies in one ear.
⁵ 40-dB loss at 1000-Hz **or** 2000-Hz in both ears.
⁶ Two trials at each signal frequency.